

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated May 15, 2007, the Examiner maintains the rejection of claims 1 through 3, 6 through 9, 12 through 14 and 17 through 20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly obvious over U.S. Patent Number 6,643,641 to Snyder, (“Snyder”) in view of U.S. Patent Publication Number 2002/0078043 to Pass, et al., (“Pass”).

Claims 1 through 3, 6 through 9, 12 through 14 and 17 through 20 are currently pending in the present application, with claims 1, 7, 12 and 18 being independent claims. By way of the present Response, Applicants hereby amend independent claims 1, 7, 12 and 18. No new matter has been added and the amendments are supported by the specification as originally filed. For at least the reasons set forth below, Applicants submit that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 through 3, 6 through 9, 12 through 14 and 17 through 20.

Independent claim 1 is directed toward a method for providing at least one search result responsive to a search query comprising at least one search query term. The method of independent claim 1 comprises parsing a set of pages for a plurality of text and non-text indexable elements and assigning a location identifier to one or more of the plurality of text and non-text indexable elements, where the location identifier corresponds to a location of a given text and non-text indexable element in a given page from the set of pages. The plurality of text and non-text indexable elements and the corresponding location identifier for the one or more of the plurality of text and non-text indexable elements are then stored in a computer readable medium as a plurality of

records. The method of independent claim 1 further comprises receiving the search query to request a stored record from a user across a networked connection and searching the plurality of records to determine text and non-text indexable elements that correspond to the search query. At least one text element representation and at least one non-text element representation of the search query result is then transmitted to the user across the networked connection.

By contrast, Snyder describes a search engine that manages the indexing of web page content and accepts user selection criteria to find and report hits that meet the search criteria. The search engine of Snyder has an associated web crawler operable to address and load successive web pages from remote servers on a network and to index or otherwise accept or generate descriptors that characterize text data associated with successive web pages that are loaded. (Snyder, col. 8, ll. 35-40).

As the Examiner recognizes and admits, Snyder does not teach or suggest the elements of “parsing a set of pages for a plurality of text and non-text indexable elements.” The Examiner asserts, however, that Pass teaches the element of “parsing a set of pages for a plurality of text and non-text indexable elements”. Applicants must respectfully traverse and disagree with the Examiner’s interpretation of Pass in the Office Action at pages 2 and 3. Specifically, the Examiner cites to the Abstract, which states “[a] search for an image includes receiving a set of features corresponding to image characteristics that then are compared to features indexed for multiple stored images. A search result produced is based on the comparison.” Pass, Abstract, lines 1-4. Pass further states that “the received set of features may correspond to posterized image characteristics that then are compared to features that have been indexed and that

correspond to posterized image characteristics for multiple stored images.” Pass,
Abstract, lines 4-8.

Closer inspection of the Examiner-cited passage reveals that this is not a method which contains a step of “parsing a set of pages for a plurality of text and non-text indexable elements,” but rather is only a method which performs a comparison of a set of features corresponding to image characteristics with an existing index. Indeed, the Examiner recognizes that neither Snyder nor Pass, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest the element of “storing the plurality of text and non-text indexable elements in a computer readable medium as a plurality of records.” Office Action 5/15/07, p. 3, para. 1. Such recognition reinforces the fact that Pass only pertains to a comparison of text and non-text indexable elements in order to produce search results to a search query, as the failure of Pass to teach or suggest the storage of non-text indexable elements indicates that Pass also fails to teach or suggest parsing of both text and non-text indexable elements.

Despite the Applicants’ disagreement with the Examiner’s rejection, Applicants have amended the independent claims of the present application in order to more clearly distinguish the independent claims over the prior art, as well as to advance prosecution of the application. Specifically, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the claim element of “assigning a location identifier to one or more of the plurality of text and non-text indexable elements, the location identifier corresponding to a location of a given text and non-text indexable element in a given page from the set of pages”, as well as storing “the corresponding location identifier for the one or more of the plurality of text and non-text indexable elements in a computer readable medium as a

plurality of records.” Neither Snyder nor Pass suggest or teach such claim elements directed to specifying and recording the location of the indexable elements in a given page from a set of pages. Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claim 1 is allowable and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Applicants further submit that independent claims 7, 12 and 18, as currently amended, also comprise elements directed towards parsing a set of pages for a plurality of text and non-text indexable elements, assigning a location identifier to one or more of the plurality of text and non-text indexable element, and storing the plurality of text and non-text indexable elements and the corresponding location identifier, and are therefore also allowable for at least the same reasons previously presented as to claim 1.

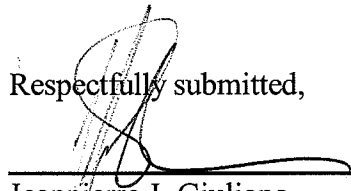
Furthermore, the dependent claims comprise additional features that further substantially distinguish the invention of the present application over the prior art of record. Given the Applicants’ position on the patentability of the independent claims, the dependent claims of the present application are allowable for at least the same reasons as stated above. Therefore, Applicants submit that all pending claims are not anticipated by and are patentable over Snyder in view of Pass.

For these reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections as they might be applied to the claims as pending following entry of this Amendment and allow the claims. To expedite prosecution of this application to allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the applicants' undersigned representative to discuss any issues relating to this application.

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Respectfully submitted,



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